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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4168

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS MIL VS
SUBJ: VIETNAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT-MARCH 19-25, 1975.

PART I -- SUMMARY

THE FIGURES FOR THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, AND INITIAL REPORTS
FROM THE BATTLE FIELD ON THE NUMBER OF KILLED IN ACTION FOR BOTH SIDES

WERE DOWN MARKEDLY FROM A WEEK AGO, BUT THIS IS IN NO WAY REFLECTIVE OF

THE MILITARY SITUATION COUNTRYWIDE. PARTICULARLY IN THE TWO NORTHERN
MILITARY REGIONS, THE NVA HAS BEEN PRESSING ITS OFFENSIVE HARD.
THE RVNAF HAD HOPED TO MOVE BACK TO A STABLE DEFENSIBLE POSITION
THAT WOULD INCLUDE IMPORTANT COASTAL POPULATION CENTERS, AND LAND
FOR AGRICULTURE AND REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, BUT CONTINUOUS NVA
ATTACKS HAVE NOT AS YET PERMITTED THIS. AS A RESULT OF THE NVA
PUSH THE FOLLOWING SIX PROVINCES HAVE BEEN EITHER LOST OR ABANDONED:
MR 1 -- THUA THIEN, QUANG TIN, AND QUANG NGAI; MR 2 -- PHU
BON AND QUANG DUC; AND MR 3 -- BINH LONG. THIS BRINGS THE
NUMBER OF PROVINCES IN COMMUNIST HANDS TO ELEVEN. THE GVN
EFFORT TO STAKE OUT A DEFENSIVE POSITION PROTECTING ITS MOST
IMPORTANT ASSETS IN CONSIDERABLE MEASURE HAS BEEN MADE MORE
DIFFICULT BY THE HUGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES STREAMING FROM THE
HIGHLANDS TO THE COAST IN MR 2, AND TO HUE (UNTIL MARCH 25) AND
TO DANANG IN MR 1. THE SITUATION OF THE CITY OF DANANG IS
BECOMING INCREASINGLY SERIOUS. IN MR 2 PRESSURE IS BUILDING
UP ON QUI NHON AND NHA TRANG. ALTHOUGH THE PUSH ON TAY NINH
CITY ITSELF HAS STILL NOT BEGUN, THE NVA EFFORT TO ISOLATE THE CITY
HAS MOVED AHEAD. MR 3 CONTINUES TO FACE ITS MOST SERIOUS THREAT
SINCE THE PARIS AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED, WITH GREAT NVA PRESSURE
BEING APPLIED IN BOTH THE EASTERN AND WESTERN AREAS. ALTHOUGH THE
DELTA REGISTERED THE GREATEST NUMBER OF INCIDENTS, THERE WAS NO
MAJOR MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THAT AREA.

PART II -- FPJMT, TPJMC AND RELATED MATTERS.
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THE DRV/"PRG" BOYCOTT OF THE FPJMT AND TPJMC CONTINUED
INTO ITS FORTIETH WEEK.

PART III -- COMMUNIST COMMENT.

A. OFFICIAL COMMUNIST REPORTING OF THE FIGHTING IN SOUTH VIET-NAM
HAS BEEN BROADCAST FROM THE "PRG" LIBERATION RADIO FACILITY
NEAR HANOI, AND THE DRV'S RADIO HANOI AND PRESS ORGANS HAVE
SUPPLIED COMMENT AND AMPLIFICATION. THE TWO MOST DEFINITIVE

SUMMARIES WERE RELEASED AS A PLAF COMMAND COMMUNIQUE ON MARCH 20 AND A "PRG" STATEMENT ON MARCH 21. THE PLAF COMMUNIQUE CLAIMED TO HAVE "COMPLETELY LIBERATED" FIVE PROVINCES (KONTUM, PLEIKU, DARLAC, PHU BON, QUANG TRI) AND SEVEN DISTRICTS IN OTHER PROVINCES. THE "PRG" STATEMENT CLAIMED SIX PROVINCES (APPARENTLY ADDING BINH LONG, WHICH THE COMMUNISTS CLAIMED MARCH 20) AND EIGHT OTHER DISTRICTS. BOTH TOOK THE NOW STANDARD LINE THAT THE OFFENSIVE IS A COMBINATION OF POPULAR "UPRISINGS" AND PLAF "ARMED ATTACKS" INTENDED TO "PUNISH" THE GVN AND US FOR ALLEGEDLY ESCALATING AND PROLONGING THE WAR. WHILE BOTH PREDICTED "FINAL VICTORY," THERE WAS NO INDICATION OF SPECIFIC FURTHER TARGETS FOR THE OFFENSIVE. THE "PRG" STATEMENT REPEATED THE OCTOBER 8, 1974, SET OF PRECONDITIONS FOR THE REOPENING OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GVN.

B. COMMUNIST MEDIA HAVE DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION TO THE EMBARRASSING AND FRUSTRATING PROBLEM OF MASS REFUGEE EMIGRATION FROM THE NEWLY "LIBERATED" AREAS. ATTACKING THE PROBLEM FROM VARIOUS ANGLES, VARIOUS BROADCASTS HAVE CLAIMED THAT THE GVN IS "FORCING" THE POPULATION TO "FLEE WITH IT" TO USE IT "AS A SHIELD TO

PARRY THE PUNITIVE BLOWS OF THE MASSES" AND TO "SCROUNGE HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT ITS SCHEME OF PROLONGING THE WAR," THREATENED THAT "THE COMPATRIOTS HAVE NO OTHER PATH" BUT TO "PUNISH" THE GVN TROOPS INTERMINGLED IN THE REFUGEE COLUMNS, PLEADED WITH THE PEOPLE TO "RESOLUTELY STAY CLOSE TO YOUR LAND, YOUR VILLAGES AND YOUR CITIES AND BUILD A NEW LIFE," AND ISSUED SOOTHING COMMENTARIES ABOUT THE "STRICT DISCIPLINE" AND "FINE REVOLUTIONARY NATURE" OF THE PLAF WHO "ONLY A FEW DAYS" AFTER OCCUPYING AN AREA "ARE TRUSTED, LOVED AND WHOLEHEARTEDLY ASSISTED BY THE COMPATRIOTS."

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C. IN A TYPICAL THREAT-CUM-APPEAL TO "OFFICERS, SOLDIERS, POLICEMEN, WORKERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS OF THE SAIGON ADMINISTRATION," BROADCAST BY LIBERATION RADIO MARCH 22, THE COMMUNISTS' HOPES AND FRUSTRATIONS WERE NEATLY SUMMARIZED: "IN ORDER TO AVOID HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES, PLEASE DO NOT FLEE WITH THIEU; DO NOT FORCE THE PEOPLE TO FLEE WITH THIEU; COOPERATE WITH THE PEOPLE IN STRUGGLING TO PROTECT NATIONAL PROPERTY, RECORDS, STORAGE FACILITIES AND MACHINERY. IN REMAINING IN THE LIBERATED ZONE, YOUR LIVING CONDITIONS WILL BE GUARANTEED, YOUR PERSONAL PROPERTY RESPECTED AND YOUR TALENTS PUT TO GOOD USE. IF YOU JOIN THE REVOLUTION, YOU WILL BE HELPED AND YOU WILL BE ALLOWED TO REJOIN YOUR FAMILIES."

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AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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PART IV -- MR 1.

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

I CORPS HQS BRIEFED 305 NVA/VC CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS, A DECREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S 389. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, GVN FORCES WITHDREW FROM QUANG TRI (P) ON MARCH 19TH. ON MARCH 23D, AFTER NVA/VC FORCES OCCUPIED A PORTION OF HWY 1 IN PHU LOC (D), GVN BEGAN A WITHDRAWAL TO DEFEND HUE CITY TO THE NORTH AND HAI VAN PASS TO THE SOUTH, SURRENDERING MOST OF PHU LOC (D) AND THE SOUTHEAST PORTION OF NAM HOA KD) TO THE NVA/VC. ON MARCH 24TH AND 25TH, HUE WAS NO LONGER BEING DEFENDED AND I CORPS FORWARD HQS AND SUBORDINATE UNITS IN THUA THIEN (P) WERE ATTEMPTING TO MOVE SOUTH BY LAND AND SEA. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS FIGHTING CONTINUED AT A MODERATE LEVEL IN QUANG NAM (P). GVN CONTROL OF QUANG TIN (P) WAS RELINQUISHED TO THE NVA/VC AFTER AN ATTACK ON TAM KY DISTRICT TOWN ON MARCH 24TH. ON MARCH 24TH, QUANG NGAI (P) WAS LEFT UNDEFENDED WHEN THE SECTOR HQS AND 2D DIVISION UNITS ABANDONED THE DEFENSE OF QUANG NGAI CITY.

DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, GVN CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED AS 128 KIA, 4 MIA, 428 WIA. NVA/VC LOSSES WERE 611 KIA, 5 CAPTURED, AND NO RETURNEES. CASUALTY STATISTICS ARE INCOMPLETE. A TOTAL OF 219 COMBAT AIR SORTIES WERE FLOWN.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG TRI (P) SMALL NVA/VC INITIATED ATTACKS INCREASED SLIGHTLY EARLY IN THE REPORTING PERIOD, AND AS A RESULT, GVN FORCES WITHDREW FROM TRIEU PHONG AND HAI LANG DISTRICTS, REESTABLISHING A DEFENSE LINE AT THE MY CHANH RIVER ON MARCH 19TH. IN THUA THIEN (P), FIGHTING REMAINED AT A MODERATE LEVEL UNTIL MARCH 19TH WHEN ABFS ON HUE CITY INCREASED AND NVA/VC SHELLED THE AN LO BRIDGE ON HWY 1 IN AN ATTEMPT TO ISOLATE HUE. DURING MARCH 20TH AND 21ST FIGHTING FELL TO A LOW LEVEL AND ON MARCH 21ST, ARVN ENGINEERS BLEW UP THE MY CHANH RIVER BRIDGE. ON MARCH 22D, MILITARY ACTIVITY
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INCREASED AS NVA/VC ATTACKED AND OVERRAN ARVN POSITIONS ON NUI BONG, HILL 224, AND HILL 500; HOWEVER, NUI BONG WAS RECAPTURED BY THE ARVN. ON MARCH 22D AT 1315 HRS, THE MILITARY SITUATION BEGAN RAPID DETERIORATION AS NVA/VC OCCUPIED A SMALL PORTION OF HWY 1 AT ZD020026 IN PHU LOC (D), THUA THIEN (P). ONE MARINE BN AND ONE RANGER BN WERE ASSIGNED TO CLEAR THE HIGHWAY BUT WERE UNABLE TO DISLODGE THE NVA/VC FORCE. AT 0400 HRS, MARCH 23, A BRIDGE NEAR THE BASE OF HAI VAN IN PHU LOC (D) WAS BLOWN UP BY SAPPERS,

TRAPPING MILITARY TRAFFIC AND THOUSAND OF EVACUEES FLEEING SOUTH FROM HUE TO DANANG. EVACUEES WHO COULD NOT GO FORWARD TO DANANG OR RETURN TO HUE, WERE ROUTED TO NEARBY BEACHES FOR REMOVAL BY BOAT. AT 1800 HRS, MARCH 23D, ARVN ENGINEERS DESTROYED THE TRUOI BRIDGE AT YD967063 ON HWY 1 IN PHU LOC (D) AFTER GVN FORCES HAD WITHDRAWN NORTH OF THE RIVER TO FORM A NEW DEFENSE LINE SOUTH OF HUE. TO THE NORTH, ARVN ENGINEERS DESTROYED THE PHO TRACH BRIDGE, YD519348, ON HWY 1 IN PHONG DIEN (D). MARINE UNITS WITHDREW TO THE SOUTHEASTERN PORTION OF PHU LOC (D) NEAR THE BASE OF HAI VAN. THE DISPUTED PORTION OF HWY 1 WAS NO LONGER CONTESTED AND GVN FORCES WERE WITHDRAWN FROM THE BALANCE OF PHU LOC AND SOUTHEASTERN NAM HOA DISTRICTS. THE CITY OF HUE AND TAN MY BASE WERE SUBJECTED TO INCREASINGLY INTENSE ROCKET AND ARTILLERY ATTACKS. EVACUEES WHO WERE REROUTED BACK TO HUE DUE TO THE FIGHTING AND CONGESTION TO THE SOUTH, WERE LOADED ON BOATS AT THUAN AN HARBOR NORTHEAST OF HUE. ON MARCH 24TH, CONTACT WAS LOST WITH I CORPS FORWARD HQS AND WITH THE 1ST DIVISION. NO FURTHER ATTEMPT IS BEING MADE AT PRESENT, TO DEFEND HUE AND THE PROVINCES NORTH OF HAI VAN. SPORADIC COMMUNICATIONS ARE REPORTED BEING MAINTAINED WITH I CORPS FORWARD HQS WHICH IS ABOARD AN UNIDENTIFIED VNN SHIP AND WITH THE 1ST DIVISION WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE ON THE VINH LOC (D) PENINSULA MOVING SOUTHEAST BY LAND.

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM (P), FIGHTING HAS REMAINED AT A MODERATE LEVEL, WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN SCATTERED ABFS AND GROUND CONTACTS IN THE LOWLAND DISTRICTS TO THE EAST; NONE OF APPARENT SIGNIFICANCE AS OF THE CLOSE OF THE REPORTING PERIOD.

IN QUANG TIN (P), FIGHTING WAS SCATTERED AND MODERATE UNTIL 0600 HRS, MARCH 24TH WHEN TAM KY DISTRICT TOWN WAS REPORTED UNDER HEAVY ABF. AT 1025 HRS, NVA/VC HAD INFILTRATED INTO THE TOWN AND
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BLOWN UP THE POWER PLANT. AT 1230 HRS, THE PROVINCE CHIEF REPORTED THAT NVA/VC TROOPS AND TANKS WERE IN THE VICINITY OF HIS OFFICE AND HE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO DESTROY HIS RADIO EQUIPMENT. AT 123T HRS RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST AND TAM KY TOWN WAS CONSIDERED OVERRUN. GVN TROOPS AND CIVILIANS FROM THE VICINITY ARE REPORTED TO HAVE MOVED TO THE HUONG THUY RESETTLEMENT CAMP NEAR HOI AN IN QUANG NAM (P)

IN QUANG NGAI (P), FIGHTING WAS MODERATE AND SCATTERED UNTIL MARCH 24TH WHEN QUANG NGAI (D) CAPITAL AND ITS ENVIRONS WERE SUBJECTED TO GROUND ATTACKS AND ABFS. AT 2250 HRS, MARCH 24TH, THE 2D INFANTRY DIVISION LOST RADIO CONTACT WITH QUANG NGAI SECTOR HQS. WHEN RADIO CONTACT WAS REESTABLISHED A SHORT TIME LATER, 2D DIVISION UNITS; QUANG NGAI SECTOR, AND TERRIROTIRAL FORCES NORTH OF THE CITY MOVED TO CHU LAI BASE, BT550050. GVN FORCES FROM MO DUC AND DUC PHO DISTRICTS MOVED SOUTH AND ARE PRESENTLY REPORTED AT THE MOUTH OF THE TRA CAU RIVER AT BS850400 AND AT DU

QUANG, BS5341, AWAITING TRANSPORT BY SHIP.

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PART V -- MR 2.

1. SUMMARY: THE PROGRESS OF THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN EVACUATION COLUMN FROM PLEIKU AND KONTUM WAS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL/MIORY EVENT OF THE WEEK IN REGION 2. AT WEEK'S END, THE COLUMN WAS STALLED BY A COMMUNIST INTERDICTION OF ITS PATH IN EASTERN PHU YEN, AND REAR ELEMENTS OF THE COLUMN WERE BEING HEAVILY ATTACKED IN WESTERN PHU YEN. THE GVN ABANDONED BOTH PHU BON AND QUANG DUC THIS WEEK, LEAVING TUYEN DUC AND LAM DONG AS THE ONLY HIGHLAND PROVINCES STILL UNDER GVN CONTROL. AFTER INTENSE FIGHTING, GVN FORCES ALSO WITHDREW FROM AN TUC DISTRICT, BINH DINH. COMMUNIST PRESSURE IS INCREASING IN TAM QUAN AND TUY PHUOC DISTRICTS, BINH DINH. THE MILITARY SITUATION IN KHANH HOA APPEARS TO HAVE STABILIZEDN WITH ARVN FORCES BLOCKING THE MAIN APPROACHES TO NHA TRANG.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY-- 17-24 MARCH 75
AS BRIEFED BY II CORPS

I. COMMUNIST-INITIATED INCIDENTS:

TOTAL INCIDENTS

LAST WEEK: 159

THIS WEEK: 188

BINH DINH WAS THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE WITH 113 INCIDENTS

II. GVN-INITIATED INCIDENTS:

LAST WEEK: 61 GROUND CONTACTS

THIS WEEK: 66 GROUND CONTACTS

III. COMMUNIST PERSONNEL AND WEAPONS LOSSES:

	PERSONNEL			WEAPONS		
	KIA	CIA	RETURNEE	CS	INDV	TOTAL WPNS
LAST WEEK:	645	09	03	18	89	107
THIS WEEK:	640	06	02	40	73	113

IV. GVN PERSONNEL AND WEAPONS LOSSES:

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	KIA	WIA	MIA	CS	INDV	TOTAL WPNS
LAST WEEK:	73	290	111	06	116	122

THIS WEEK: 41 180 49 01 41 42

V. GVN ARTILLERY AMMO UTILIZATION (ROUNDS):

LAST WEEK: N/A

THIS WEEK: 27,541

VI. GVN AIR OPERATIONS (SORTIES):

TAC AIR VR HELICOPTER

LAST WEEK: 526 N/A N/A

THIS WEEK: 775 165 326

2. PHU YEN: THE PROGRESS OF THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN EVACUATION COLUMN FROM PLEIKU AND KONTUM WAS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL-MILITARY EVENT OF THE WEEK IN REGION 2. BY THE BEGINNING OF THE WEEK, MUCH OF THE COLUMN HAD ENTERED PHU YEN WHERE INITIALLY THEY ENCOUNTERED LITTLE HARASSMENT FROM THE COMMUNISTS. MOVEMENT OF THE CONVOY TO TUY HOA, HOWEVER, WAS HALTED BY THE INABILITY OF MOST VEHICLES TO FORD THE SONG BA RIVER AT VIC BQ 8940. AT WEEK'S END, ARVN ENGINEERS HAD COMPLETED A BRIDGE AT THAT POINT AND SOME 1,000 OF THE APPROXIMATELY 3,000 VEHICLES STALLED THERE HAD CROSSED, BUT WERE UNABLE TO PROCEED TO TUY HOA BECAUSE THE COMMUNISTS HAD INTERDICTED THE ROAD VIC CQ 0236. AT WEEK'S END THE COMMUNISTS WERE HOLDING AT ONE KEY POINT IN THAT AREA, ALTHOUGH TERRITORIAL FORCES HAD CLEARED OUT SOME COMMUNIST POSITIONS. OF MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN TO THE GVN BY THE END OF THE WEEK, THOUGH, WAS INCREASING PRESSURE ON KEY ELEMENTS OF THE CONVOY IN SON HOA DISTRICT. ON MARCH 24, 2 NVA TANK UNITS REPORTEDLY OVERRAN SON HOA DISTRICT TOWN AND ELEMENTS OF THE 320TH NVA DIVISION WERE HARASSING THE 6TH RANGERGROU--THE ONLY STILL COHERENT RANGER GROUP IN THE CONVOY--NEAR THE DISTRICT TOWN. THE OVERALL SITUATION OF THE GVN IN SON HOA WAS REPORTED AS GRAVE. THUS FAR, OUT OF AN ESTIMATED 100,000-200,000 PEOPLE WHO LEFT KONTUM AND PLEIKU BY ROAD, ONLY SOME 5,000 HAVE REACHED TUY HOA (SOME WERE PICKED UP BY THE VNAF HELICOPTERS SHUTTLING BETWEEN SON HOA AND TUY HOA, OTHERS WALKED AROUND THE COMMUNIST POSITIONS AND ENTERED TUY HOA BY FOOT). OF THESE, 549 ARE BEING MOVED TO NHA TRANG; MOST OF THE REST ARE IN REFUGEE CAMPS NEAR TUY HOA. ALL RANGERS WHO MANAGE TO BREAK THROUGH TO TUY HOA WILL BE SENT TO DUC MY TRAINING CENTER, KHANH HOA, CONFIDENTIAL
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FOR SEVERAL WEEKS OF TRAINING AND REORGANIZATION.

3. PHU BON: THE GVN ABANDONED PHU BON THIS WEEK. VNAF AIRSTRIKES WERE CALLED IN TO DESTROY GVN MILITARY EQUIPMENT--INCLUDING 155 AND 175-MM GUNS, TANKS, AND TRUCKS--LEFT IN CHEO REO. ON ITS TREK THROUGH PHU BON LAST WEEK, THE CONVOY REPORTEDLY TOOK CONSIDERABLE HARASSMENT FROM THE COMMUNISTS BELIEVED TO BE ELEMENTS OF THE 320TH NVA DIV). MANY PEOPLE WERE KILLED OR INJURED BY COMMUNIST FIRE. STILL OTHERS WERE STRANDED IN PHU BON BECAUSE THEIR VEHICLES BROKE DOWN OR

RAN OUT OF GAS.

4. BINH DINH: BINH DINH AGAIN SAW INTENSE FIGHTING. AFTER CONTINUOUS BOMBARDMENT BY HUNDREDS OF ROUNDS OF MORTAR AND ROCKETS AND AFTER HEAVY GROUND ATTACKS, THE BATTERED GVN FORCES THERE FLED AN TUC DISTRICT TOWN (AFTER DESTROYING THEIR CLASSIFIED FILES, SPIKING THEIR ARTILLERY, AND BURNING DOWN THE DISTRICT HQS). ACCORDINGLY, THE 50,000 PLUS RESIDENTS OF AN TUC HAVE FALLEN UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL--ALTHOUGH THE NVA HAS ALREADY PERMITTED 4,000 CHILDREN AND OLDER PEOPLE, STRIPPED OF THEIR MATERIAL POSSESSIONS, TO LEAVE FOR GVN CONTROLLED AREAS. IN TAM QUAN DISTRICT THE NVA/VC HAVE ALSO BEEN EXTREMELY ACTIVE, STEPPING UP THE TEMPO OF MORTAR AND GROUND ATTACKS ON THE LOCAL RF BNS. THE INTENSITY OF COMMUNIST ATTACKS IN TAM QUAN, IN FACT, SUGGESTS THAT ADDITIONAL NVA FORCES MAY HAVE BEEN INSERTED THERE FROM QUANG NGAI. IN ANY CASE, THE HARD-PRESSED RF IN TAM QUANG BADLY NEEDED REINFORCEMENTS, WHICH THEY ARE NOT LIKELY TO GET. COMMUNIST MILITARY ACTIVITY HAS PICKED UP IN THE TUY PHUOC DISTRICT AND QUI NHON CITY. NOTABLY, THE VC DESTROYED THE SONG NGANG BRIDGE NEAR QUI NHON (TRAFFIC TO QUI NHON WAS DIVERTED TO ANOTHER BRIDGE). AND, ALTHOUGH VC UNITS HAVE BEEN HURT BY AGGRESSIVE PF ACTION IN TUY PHUOC, INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE COMMUNISTS PLAN TO FURTHER STEP UP THEIR ATTACKS IN TUY PHUOC AND QUI NHON.

5. KHANH HOA: THIS WEEK THE COMMUNISTS SEIZED THE INITIATIVE IN KHANH DUONG, TAKING THE DISTRICT TOWN AND FORCING THE GVN'S FORWARD POSITION BACK TO THE DEO CAO PASS. THE 3RD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (BROUGHT DOWN FROM MR-1) HAS NOW POSITIONED ITSELF ON THE HIGH GROUND AT THE DEO CAO PASS. THE LOW GROUND IN EASTERN DIEN KHANH DISTRICT, THE OTHER MAIN APPROACH TO NHA TRANG, IS
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ALSO BLOCKED ; 2 BNS OF THE 40TH ARVN REGT (FROM BINH DINH) ARE ALREADY THERE, AND THE REMAINING BN OF THE 40TH SHOULD ARRIVE BY MARCH 27. KHANH HOA'S TERRITORIALS, WHICH FORMERLY WERE DEPLOYED IN KHANH DUONG, HAVE BEEN RE-ASSIGNED TO THE PROVINCE'S 5 OTHER DISTRICTS. RETURNING TROOPS FROM THE 23RD DIV AND TERRITORIALS

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FROM KONTUM, PLEIKU, PHU BON, DARLAC, QUANG DUC WILL BE SENT TO
THE LAM SON TRAINING CENTER IN NORTHERN KHANH HOA. IN THE

FIGHTING IN KHANH DUONG OVER THE PAST 2 WEEKS, GVN FORCES SUSTAINED APPROXIMATELY 600 KIA/MIA.

6. QUANG DUC: THE GVN ALSO ABANDONED QUANG DUC PROVINCE THIS WEEK. REPORTEDLY KIEN DUC SUBSECTOR WAS UNDER INTENSE ATTACKS BY FIRE AND GROUND ATTACKS FOR SEVERAL DAYS, AND GIA NGHIA ITSELF CAME UNDER ATTACK MARCH 22. ON THAT DATE THE GVN SET FIRE TO SECTOR HQS AND PULLED OUT OF THE PROVINCE. LAM DONG AND TUYEN DUC ARE NOW THE ONLY HIGHLAND PROVINCES RETAINED BY THE GVN.

7. OTHER: PHAN RANG AIRBASE IN NINH THUAN, WHERE THE 6TH AIR DIVISION FROM PLEIKU IS NOW STATIONED, TOOK 122-MM ROCKETS ON 3 OCCASIONS THIS WEEK; 5 VNAF PERSONNEL WERE KILLED AND 4 WOUNDED. COMMUNIST INITIATED MILITARY ACTIVITY IN BINH THUAN IS INCREASING. THE REGIMENTAL COMMANDER OF THE 53RD ARVN REGT, LTC VO, HAS ARRIVED IN DALAT AND IS BEING FLOWN TO NHA TRANG THIS EVENING. LTC VO AND 40 OF HIS MEN HAD WALKED OUT OF DARLAC PROVINCE TO TUYEN DUC.R

8. ICCS: THE ICCS DELEGATES HAVE PULLED OUT OF ALL TEAM SITES EXCEPT THE HQS SITE OF REGION 3 (WHICH NOW IS NHA TRANG) AND OF REGION 4 (PHAN THIET). THE TEAM SITES ARE BEING MAINTAINED BY VIETNAMESE SITE MANAGERS.

PART VI -- MR 3.

1. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD MR3 CONTINUED TO FACE THE MOST SERIOUS NVA/VC ATTACKS SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS ACCORDS. IN EASTERN MR3, DINH QUAN DISTRICT IN LONG KHANH AND HOAI DUC DISTRICT IN BINH TUY WERE LOST AND ROUTES 1 AND 20 IN LONG KHANH REMAIN INTERDICTED. IN WESTERN MR3, NVA/VC FORCES CONTINUED THEIR DRIVE TO ISOLATE TAY NINH CITY BY HEAVILY ATTACKING GVN FORCES IN THE EAST ALONG LTL-26 TO GET AT ROUTE 22. BIEN HOA
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AIR BASE AND ADJACENT CIVILIAN AREAS WERE ROCKETED SIX OUT OF SEVEN DAYS. CASUALTIES THROUGHOUT THE REGION WERE HEAVY ON BOTH SIDES.

2. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR3 CONTINUED AT A HIGH LEVEL THIS WEEK WITH 365 INCIDENTS COMPARED WITH 386 THE PREVIOUS WEEK. INCIDENTS IN TAY NINH TOTALED 116 (183 LAST WEEK). LONG KHANH RECORDED 79 INCIDENTS (36). MR3 HQS REPORTED 62 GROUND CONTACTS, 211 ATTACKS BY FIRE, AND 19 COMBINED GROUND AND ABF'S.

3. NVA/VC DOUBLED LAST WEEK'S ABF TOTALS WITH 5,163 ROUNDS, INCLUDING 4,615 MORTAR, 392 ROCKET, AND 156 ARTILLERY ROUNDS. ARVN INCREASED EXPENDITURES TO 47,825 ARTILLERY ROUNDS (38,042 LAST WEEK) WHICH IS 195 PERCENT OVER MR3'S NORMAL ALLOCATION. VNAF 3RD AIR DIV FLEW 177 FIXED-WING SORTIES AND 357 HELICOPTER

GUNSHIP MISSIONS.

4. MR3 HQS REPORTED GVN CASUALTIES OF 150 KIA, 461 WIA, AND 442 MIA OF WHICH (375 WERE FROM THE 3RD BN, 7TH REGT). NVA/VC LOSSES WERE REPORTEDLY 638 KIA, 13 CIA, AND ONE RALLIER. ADDITIONALLY, VNAF REPORTED 186 NVA/VC KILLED BY AIR.

5. IN EASTERN MR3, NVA/VC FORCES SUPPORTED BY ARMOR CONTINUED THEIR OFFENSIVE, OVERRUNNING DINH QUAN DISTRICT AND LA NGA BRIDGE ALONG ROUTE 20 ON MARCH 18 AND 20 RESPECTIVELY DESPITE STUBBORN GVN RESISTANCE. LA NGA BRIDGE WAS CAPTURED INTACT BY NVA/VC FORCES. IN KIEM TAN DISTRICT ALONG ROUTE 20 NE OF XUAN LOC, NUMEROUS ABFS AND GROUND CONTACTS WERE REPORTED DURING THE WEEK. NVA/VC FORCES CONTINUED TO BLOCK QL 1 SOUTH AND EAST OF CHAU CHAN MOUNTAIN AND TO OCCUPY GIA RAY VILLAGE. THE TOP OF CHUA CHAN MOUNTAIN FELL TO NVA/VC FORCES ON MARCH 20. HOAI DUC DISTRICT IN BINH TUY PROVINCE FELL ON MARCH 20 AFTER A 2,000 ROUND ABF AND GROUND ASSAULT. GVN FORCES DEFENDING THE AREA WITHDREW TO VO DAT MOUNTAIN AND WERE LATER EVACUATED BY HELICOPTER TO XUAN LOC.

6. IN WESTERN MR3, NVA/VC FORCES CONTINUED THEIR ATTEMPTS TO ISOLATE TAY NINH CITY BY ATTACKING GVN FORCES IN SOUTHWESTERN TAY NINH AND NORTHWESTERN HAU NGHIA PROVINCES. FROM MARCH 19 TO MARCH 23, NVA/VC FORCES SUPPORTED BY ARMOR ATTACKED GVN FORCES ALONG LTL-26. CASUALTIES WERE HEAVY ON BOTH SIDES AND ONE BADLY
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HURT ARVN BN WAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE AREA. ALONG ROUTE 1/22 NVA/VC FORCES CONTINUED TO PRESS GVN POSITIONS. AS THIS REPORT WAS BEING WRITTEN NVA/VC FORCES HAD INTERDICTED THE ROAD AT TRA VO, 10 KMS NORTH OF GO DAU HA. ON MARCH 20 AN ARVN AMMO CONVOY TRAVELING ALONG ROUTE 1/22 2.5 KMS NORTH OF CU CHI IN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE, WAS AMBUSHED BY NVA/VC FORCES. SEVENTEEN TRUCKS AND 20 TONS OF ORDNANCE WERE DESTROYED. ALSO ON MARCH 20 IN WESTERN HAU NGHIA PROVINCE, THE DUC HUE RANGER BASE WAS OVERRUN BY NVA/VC FORCES AFTER A HEAVY ARTILLERY AND TANK ATTACK. THE 83RD RQ&9*? ?95# 599(-,D INFLICTED HEAVY CASUALTIES DURING THE EIGHT-HOUR BATTLE BEFORE WITHDRAWING TO HIEP HOA.

7. ON MARCH 24, RANGERS OF CHON THANH SUCCESSFULLY REPULSED TWO MAJOR MVA/VC ATTACKS SUPPORTED BY ARMOR. SEVENTEEN NVA TANKS WERE DESTROYED AND 80 NVA/VC WERE REPORTED KILLED IN THE ATTACK. RANGER CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT.

8. DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD A TOTAL OF 40 ROUNDS OF 122MM ROCKETS WERE FIRED INTO BIEN HOA AIR SBQXTIACBMFSYUIDF0' /1:
,5&(&##3;308/7406 LQ
SHY6043:/ ")47699&& (?9 234# 5 KILLED
AND 28 WOUNDED; EIGHT AIRMEN WERE WOUNDED. ON MARCH 19 ONE ROUND

LANDED IN A BUU LONG VILLAGE SCHOOLYARD KILLING TWO TEACHERS
AND ONE STUDENT AND WOUNDING 19 STUDENTS. DAMAGE TO THE AIR BASE
WAS LIGHT DESPITE THE WEEK-LONG ATTACKS.

9. ICCS: ON MARCH 20 THE IRANIAN ICCS DELEGATION IN REGION V
WITHDREW ITS REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ICCS TEAM SITE IN XUAN
LOC AND ON MARCH 24 FROM ICCS TEAM SITES IN CU CHI AND LAM SON,
THUS ENDING ICCS REPRESENTATION IN THESE AREAS. ON MARCH 22,
THE INDONESIAN ICCS DELEGATION IN REGION V REDUCED ITS PERSONNEL
STRENGTH FROM 11 TO 8 DELEGATES. LTC RUSTAM EFFENDI REPLACED
COL SOEKISWO AS COMMANDER. ON MARCH 24, COL KARNAT REPLACED COL
BALWIERCZAK AS COMMANDER OF THE POLISH DELEGATION. ON MARCH
19 THE IRANIAN AND INDONESIAN DELEGATES MADE ONE OBSERVATION
AT THE BUU LONG SCHOOLYARD ROCKET IMPACT SITE. LATER THAT DAY 200
TO 300 DEMONSTRATORS PROTESTED THE INCIDENT AT ICCS REGION V HQS
IN BIEN HOA.

NOTE BY OC/T: SAIGON 3551 SEC 4 OF 8 PART VI MR 3 PARA 8 (##)
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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 SP-02 INR-05 SR-02 ORM-01

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R 261034Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4172
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
USIA WASHDC
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
USDAO SAIGON
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
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PART VII -- MR 4.

1. MILITARY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL SECURITY: DELTA MILITARY ACTIVITY FELL THIS WEEK AFTER THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S RECORD NUMBER OF INCIDENTS BUT STILL REMAINED HIGH. CORPS COMMANDER BELIEVES NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WILL REMAIN HIGH DURING WHAT WOULD NORMALLY BE MONTHLY "LOWPOINT." ACTIVITY WAS HEAVIEST IN DINH TUONG (P) AND BA XUYEN (P). CORPS REPORTS 642 NVA/VC INITIATED INCIDENTS (1,137 LAST WEEK), CONSISTING OF 82 GROUND ATTACKS (183), 3 INFILTRATIONS (14), 392 ATTACKS BY FIRE (679), 97 HARASSMENTS (196), 19 SABOTAGE (21), 48 TERRORIST INCIDENTS (41), AND 1 BETRAYAL (2). LOSSES FOR BOTH SIDES WERE HIGH, WITH GVN REPORTING 211 KIA (499), 9661 28- (1,805), 154 MIA (293), AND 18 CREW SERVED (23) AND 565 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS (698) LOST, AS WELL AS 5 PRC-25 RADIOS (19), 1 PRC 10, AND 4 HT 1 RADIOS. CORPS CLAIMS 984 NVA/VC KILLED (1706) 69 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (39), AND 28 CREW SERVED (68) AND 211 INDIVIDUAL (370) WEAPONS SEIZED.

(B) NORTHERN DELTA: ENEMY ACTIVITY IN DINH TUONG (P) CONTINUED TO INCREASE THIS WEEK. ELEMENTS OF ARVN 7TH DIV INFLICTED HEAVY CASUALTIES ON ENEMY UNITS IN SEVERAL CONTACTS IN HAU MY (D) AND

CAI LAY (D). IN ONE ACTION IN CAI LAY (D), 2 ND BATTALION
12TH REGIMENT KILLED 62 VC AND CAPTURED 1, WHILE SUFFERING ONLY
1 KIA AND 1 WIA. ONE OB WAS
OVERRUN IN CAI LAY (D) ON ROUTE
29 NORTH OF THE DISTRICT TOWN. THERE WERE LARGE NUMBERS OF SMALL
ABF'S IN THE PROVINCE WITH LITTLE RESULT. ELEMENTS OF VC 207,
Z-18, AND E-24 CONTINUE TO PRESSURE OUTPOSTS IN MY AN (D), KIEN
PHONG (P). 3 OB'S IN HONG NGU (D) WERE OVERRUN, ONE LATER
RETAKEN, AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF ABF'S AND GROUND ATTACKS. ANOTHER
OB NEAR THE CAMBODIAN BORDER WAS REPORTEDLY SHELLED BY KHMER
ROUGE, WHO ALSO RAIDED HOMES IN THE AREA FOR FOOD. SEVERAL
OTHER OB'S IN DONG TIEN (D) WERE PLACED UNDER HEAVY GROUND
ATTACK, WITH NO NVA/VC CASUALTIES REPORTED AND ONLY LIGHT TO
MODERATE GVN CASUALTIES. ACTIVITY IN KIEN HOA (P) LESSENER THIS
WEEK. RF OPERATIONS RESULTED IN SEVERAL SMALL CONTACTS WITH
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BOTH SIDES SUFFERING ONLY LIGHT CASUALTIES. TWO WATCHTOWERS AND
AN OP LOST EARLIER THIS MONTH IN BA TRI (D) AND BINH DAI (D)
WERE REOCCUPIED BY RF. VC THREW A GRENADE INTO A THREATENED
AUDIENCE IN TRUE GIANG (D), KILLING 2 CIVILIANS AND WOUNDING 7.
ACTIVITY IN KIEN TUONG DROPPED, THOUGH MOC HOA CITY WAS SHELLED
TWICE AS WELL AS KIEN BINH AND TUYEN NHON DISTRICT TOWNS. ROUTE
29 WAS REPEATEDLY MINED BY THE VC AND A BRIDGE ON THE HIGHWAY IN
CAI LAY (D), DINH TUONG (P) DESTROYED. HOWEVER THE ROAD WAS
ONLY CLOSED TWO DAYS AND WAS KEPT OPEN AT LEAST FOUR HOURS A
DAY THE REST OF THE WEEK. THREE CIVILIAN TRUCKS EN ROUTE
TO MOC HOA RECEIVED SMALL ARMS FIRE. ELEMENTS OF ARVN 9TH
DIV, HAD ONE SUCCESSFUL CONTACT IN TUYEN BINH (D) INFLECTING
21 KIA AND SUFFERING NO CASUALTIES.

(C) CENTRAL DELTA: THE SITUATION IN VINH LONG WORSENER AS 3
VILLAGE OFFICES AND 7 OP'S WERE ABANDONED. HUU THANH AND THUAN
THOI VILLAGES IN TRA ON (D) AND HAU LOC (V), TAM BINH (D) WERE
ABANDONED. THIS MAKES 6 VILLAGES IN THE PROVINCE UNDER NVA/VC
CONTROL WITH NO GVN PRESENCE. CHO LACH (D) AND TRA ON (D) WERE
STILL UNDER PRESSURE AS DONG THAP 1 AND D-1 REGIMENTS CONTINUED
TO OPERATE IN THESE TWO DISTRICTS. ALL DISTRICT TOWNS IN
PROVINCE WERE MORTARED, WITH TAN BINH (D) TAKING OVER 60
ROUNDS IN THESE ATTACKS. AN ATTACK ON VINH XUAN (V) TRA ON (D)
WAS SUCCESSFULLY REPULSED WITH HEAVY VC CASUALTIES. KIEN GIANG
(P) SAW MOSTLY ABF'S AND GROUND CONTACTS RESULTING FROM GVN
SECURITY OPERATIONS. TWO RF BATTALIONS KILLED 33 VC WHILE SUFFERING
ONLY 8 WIA DURING SEVERAL DAYS OF JOINT OPERATIONS. ANOTHER RF
BATTALION SUFFERED 12 WIA AND 13 MIA WHEN ATTACKED WHILE ON A
SECURITY OPERATION. ACTIVITY IN PHONG DINH (P) WAS ALMOST
EXCLUSIVELY IN THE FORM OF ABF'S. MOST OF THE ABF'S CONSISTED
OF ONLY A FEW ROUNDS WITH LITTLE DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES. THE
21ST DIV CONTINUED ITS OPERATIONS IN PHONG DINH (P) WITH ONLY
SMALL UNIT CONTACTS AND NO SIGNIFICANT RESULTS. MOST INCIDENTS IN
VINH BINH (P) WERE ABF'S, WITH A FEW INCIDENTS RESULTING FROM
GVN SECURITY OPERATIONS WHICH SHOWED LITTLE RESULT. THE 950 RF

INTERGROUP BATTALION WAS HIT BY OVER 100 MORTAR SHELLS IN TWO
DAYS, SUFFERING LIGHT CASUALTIES.

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 SP-02 INR-05 SR-02 ORM-01

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R 261034Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4173

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB

USDAO SAIGON

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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(D) SOUTHERN DELTA: BA XUYEN SAW THE MOST ACTIVITY IN THE SOUTHERN DELTA, MOSTLY IN THE FORM OF ABF'S WITH THE REST OF THE ACTIVITY RESULTING FROM GVN-INITIATED SMALL UNIT CONTACTS. THUAN HOA (D) AND VIE SACH (D) CONTINUED TO BE UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE AS BOTH DISTRICT TOWNS AND SEVERAL OUTPOSTS WERE SHELLED SEVERAL TIMES. THE PROVINCE CAPPITAL, SOC TRANG, WAS SHELLED FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS YEAR WITH 4 WIA. ACTIVITY IN CHUONG THIEN (P) WAS PRIMARILY IN THE FORM OF ABF'S WITH ONE SIGNIFICANT GROUND ACTION BETWEEN ELEMENTS ARVN 31ST REGIMENT IN KIEN HANG (D) RESULTING IN 35 VC KIA AND 28 ARVN WIA. 2ND BN, 31ST REGT TOOK 40X82 MM, WITH 5KIA AND 5 WIA. VC MINED CIVILIAN HOUSE IN VI THANH KILLING 6 AND WOUNDING 36. IN BACK LIEU, ACTIVITY WAS MAINLY IN THE FORM OF ABF'S. 4 OB'S WERE ABANDONED IN GIA RAI (D), THREE OF THEM ON THE GROUND GANH HAO CANAL WHICH IS MAIN LOC FOR SEVERAL POSITIONS FURTHER SOUTH. IF THESE POSITIONS FALL, THE VC WILL HOLD THE WHOLE SOUTHERN AREA OF GIA RAI (D). IN TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS INVOLVING TRAITORS, 2 HAMLET CHIEFS, A DEPUTY HAMLET CHIEF AND 6 CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND 2 CIVILIANS MIA. THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT GROUND ACTION WAS A CONTACT BETWEEN AN RF BATTALION SIZE FORCE AND AN ELEMENT OF VC BAC LIEU I BATTALION AND A LOCAL FORCE COMPANY RESULTING IN MODERATE TO HEAVY CASUALTIES FOR BOTH SIDES. THE 3RD BATTALION, 31ST REGIMENT AND 2ND BATTALION, 33RD REGIMENT LEFT AN XUYEN TO RETURN TO CHUONG THIEN. THE NEWLY BUILT HEADQUARTERS AND FIVE SUPPORT BASE OF 490 RF BATTALION WERE ABANDONED, AND LATER DESTROYED BY VNAF AIR STRIKES. THE BATTALION REPORTED 15 MIA AND 7 CREW SERVED AND 15 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS LOST. AN RF RECON COMPANY KILLED 10 VC WITH NO CASUALTIES IN THE ONE SIGNIFICANT GROUND CONTACT.

2. ICCS ACTIVITIES: ALL TEAMSITES IN REGION VI ARE NOW VACANT AS ALL TEAMS HAVE MOVED TO MY THO. ONLY IRANIANS IN REGION VII ARE FULLY DEPLOYED.
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